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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving a specification of a method in a container-managed persistence entity bean and a procedure in a backend data store, wherein a container generates access calls to the backend data store, and wherein the container-managed persistence entity bean does not include the calls to the backend data store, wherein the container marks transaction boundaries, wherein the container includes the container-managed persistence entity bean, and wherein the receiving further comprises receiving the specification of the method and the procedure from a deployer;

in response to the receiving, generating code in a helper class associated with the container-managed persistence entity bean, wherein the helper class determines a connector based on a connection factory type, wherein the deployer supplies the connection factory type;

accessing the procedure in the backend data store via a backend-specific protocol and the connector, wherein the accessing the procedure in the backend data store further comprises invoking the procedure in the backend data store, wherein the code in the helper class performs the accessing and the invoking, and wherein the code in the helper class calls an evaluator class and passes results of the procedure, wherein the evaluator class evaluates the results;

receiving a specification of input and output records for the procedure in the backend data store; and

mapping the input and output records between the method in the container-managed persistence entity bean and the procedure in the backend data store, wherein the output records comprise the results, and wherein a state of the container-managed persistence entity bean persists beyond a lifetime of an application that uses the container-managed persistence entity bean.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the backend data store comprises a relational database, and wherein an instance of the container-managed persistence entity bean corresponds to a row in a table of the relational database.

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3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the backend data store comprises a non-relational database.

Claims 4-20 (Canceled)

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